
New Inspection Requirements for Fall Protection Equipment September 27, 2006

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- ANSI/ASSE Standard A10.32-2004 Fall Protection Systems – American National Standard for Construction and demolition operations imposes **service life limits** on fall protection equipment.
- Specifically, Section 1.4.4 states: “Service life of fall protection equipment manufactured of **synthetic fiber** shall be **5 years *unless* otherwise specified by the manufacturer.**” [emphasis added]

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- Section 5 imposes new marking requirements, including **an expiration date**.
- Section 6.3.2 requires a formal, documented inspection on at least a **semi-annual** basis by a qualified/competent person.

The previous ANSI/ASSE Standard A10.14 did not have these requirements, but that standard has been superseded.

Actions Required:

- Departments/Divisions must check all fall protection equipment manufactured of synthetic fiber and **remove from service** all equipment that is **more than 5 years old**, or **for which they cannot determine its date of manufacture**.
- This equipment **may be returned to service** if they have **documentation from the manufacturer that the service life is longer than 5 years**. This documentation shall be maintained on file for the life of the equipment.

NOTE: Many manufacturers have notices of bulletins posted on their web sites regarding the service life of their equipment, and that some equipment does not have a service life as long as it passes inspection.

Actions Required:

- All fall protection equipment shall be inspected on at least a **semi-annual basis** by a **qualified/competent** person.
- For equipment that requires inspection, provide list of equipment to be inspected and request assistance from the following:
 - F&O: T. Millet and J. Hynan
 - Balance of Lab: S. Kane, K. Krasner

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- These actions should be accomplished over the next month.
- The Subject Area will be revised early next year to reflect new requirements.